



Colorado State Conservation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2014  
Loveland, CO

Meeting was called to order by President Sweeney at 1:02 p.m., November 10, 2014.

**Roll Call:**

Harold Unwin: Lower Arkansas River Watershed  
Karen Salapich: Upper Arkansas River Watershed  
Joe Lindsay: Upper South Platte River Watershed  
Vernon Lerette: San Juan River Watershed  
Karin Utterback-Normann: North Platte, Yampa, White River Watersheds  
Larry Sweeney: Colorado River & Gunnison-Dolores River Watersheds  
Margaret Lenz: Member-at-Large  
Chester Zwirn: Republican River & Lower South Platte River Watersheds  
Danny Neufeld: Rio Grande River Watershed

**Other Attendees:**

Randy Randall, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Cindy Lair: State Conservation Board Program Manager  
Tammra Straub: Conservation Specialist  
Jim Currier: Conservation Specialist  
Robin Reilley: Conservation Specialist  
Wayne East: Conservation Specialist  
Mark Cronquist: Conservation Specialist  
Natalie Macsalka Conservation Specialist

**Approval of Agenda**

President Sweeney asked for any additions to the agenda. Harold Unwin added a discussion of Baca County.

Harold Unwin moved to accept the agenda with this addition. Margaret Lenz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



### **Approval of Minutes**

Margaret Lenz had one change to the Wray meeting minutes: change “amendments” to “additions” on page 2 under Approval of Agenda. Karen Salapich moved to approve the minutes with this amendment. Joe Lindsay seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Review/Discussion of Joint Board Meeting**

President Sweeney commented that the joint Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) and CSCB board meeting was one of the best that he has ever attended. He thought that the watershed discussion was worthwhile and it was good to hear from strong watershed members as well as some of the less robust watershed members.

### **Severance Tax Status, Matching Grants, and Contract Status**

Tammra handed out a District Conservation Technician – Matching Grant Spending Status report (a copy is attached). She described this report and answered clarifying questions.

Tammra has completed all requisitions to encumber contracts. Those are loaded into the statewide CORE financial system and it is now in the hands of the staff in the Business Operations group. There have been delays due to CORE and state staffing issues. President Sweeney, along with CACD President Gary Moyer, called Commissioner Salazar to voice their concerns over these delays that CORE is creating. Thankfully, the delays were resolved.

Agate Conservation District submitted a matching grant application that included prairie dog mitigation and they were rated low because of the politically sensitive issue and precedent of not funding prairie dog mitigation since 2012. They have removed the prairie dog component from their proposal and have resubmitted it. There may be some funding available to fund further matching grants and this new application will be considered if funding is available.

Tammra has compiled Matching Grant summary sheets and they will be available for review at the CSCB booth in the exhibitor hall. She also crafted PowerPoint slides that will be presented during social times throughout the conference. These summary sheets will also be posted on the CSCB website after the state upgrades the website software. Tammra will send out a notice to all when the summary sheets are available on the website.

Looking at the spending status report, Baca has not spent any money from their DCT grant. After multiple attempts to contact the district, Tammra’s only response she has received was a response that they have sent the DCT quarterly reports multiple times but they didn’t know if



Tammra had received them. Tammra has not received any reports before or after that e-mail. Harold Unwin stopped in and talked to Baca's district manager recently. The district manager said she filed her exemption of audit. But she said she didn't know she had any other reports to file. Harold Unwin made a motion to give Baca until December 15<sup>th</sup>, as allowed by the contract CSCB has with Baca, to submit all report paperwork to become current. If this deadline is not met, then staff will terminate the contract with Baca County. Vernon Lerette seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tammra has not given Baca County notice of their 2015 DCT program funding. The funding is available and set aside, but she is waiting to give them notice (of 2015 funding) until the 2014 reports have been submitted, and all other contract conditions have been met.

#### **Conservation Innovation Award Proposal**

Mark Cronquist handed out a draft proposal for a new Conservation Innovation Award. The proposal included the proposal of the award, the timeline, and the evaluation criteria and procedure. Discussion ensued, and some recommendations were made to Mark Cronquist. Motion by Vernon Lerette to authorize staff to move forward with the Conservation Innovation Award. Danny Neufeld seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **CSCB Guidance to State Conservationist**

Cindy Lair said that we have been missing the strong leadership of a State Conservationist. The position posted last Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and will close Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. The new hire should be in the office in January or February of 2015. Cindy would like to have the CSCB leadership meet with the new Conservationist shortly after that person is hired.

#### **Mined Land Reclamation Board Update**

Karin Utterback-Normann will represent CSCB on the MLRB starting in 2015.

#### **Review of Draft Budget Request Letter**

The Board briefly discussed the letter, then passed it around for signature. CSCB board signed the letter and will hand the letter to Commissioner Salazar later this week.

#### **Partner Updates**



Randy Randall, CO NRCS Assistance State Conservationist – Operations, provided an update. 487 contracts were funded with \$28 million this year. The average contract was just under \$58,000.

### **Officer Elections**

Harold Unwin was the only nominee for president. Sweeney called for verbal votes. Passed unanimously.

Vice President nominees were Vernon Lerette and Margaret Lenz. Vernon Lerette was elected via private ballot.

Margaret Lenz and Karen Salapich were nominees for Secretary. Margaret Lenz was elected via private ballot.

Karin Utterback-Normann thanked the board and the board leadership for their hard work and commitment.

### **January Meeting**

Cindy discussed the January meeting. It will be a conference call meeting. By calling in it will eliminate the chance that bad weather could impact the meeting. It will also save much needed funds that would be required for an in-person meeting.

Staff will send out a doodle poll seeking board input for the best time.

Cindy thanked board members and staff for their professionalism and urged the board to encourage district supervisors and staff to step up and do their part to help build up partner organizations.

Meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.